Mission and Objectives for Clinical Practicum

Mission
The Frontier Nursing University is a private, non-profit, non-residential community-based, distance education graduate school offering a Master of Science in Nursing Degree, A Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree and post-master’s certificates in advanced practice specialties. Our mission is to provide a high quality education that prepares nurses to become competent, entrepreneurial, ethical and compassionate nurse-midwives and nurse practitioners who will provide primary care for women and families residing in all areas with a focus on rural and medically underserved populations.

Objectives
The objectives of CFNP are to prepare graduates who will be able to:
- Deliver safe, beginning primary health care to clients over the life span.
- Apply critical thinking skills to their nurse practitioner practice.
- Evaluate and apply clinical research into their practice.
- Emulate characteristics of a professional.
- Demonstrate awareness of the political and economic environment within which primary care is provided.
- Evaluate nurse practitioner practice through peer review and quality improvement.
- Advocate for empowerment of clients and families and communities.
- Establish and maintain quality primary care services in a fiscally sound and financially responsible manner.
- Assume responsibility for the education of nurse practitioner students.

Objectives
The objectives of the CNEP and CWHCNP are to prepare graduates who will be able to:
- Demonstrate safe, beginning level practice skills
- Apply critical thinking skills to their practice.
- Accept and value research as an integral part of nurse-midwifery and women’s health care nurse practitioner practice.
- Emulate characteristics of a professional.
- Demonstrate awareness of the political and economic environment within which nurse-midwives and women’s health care nurse practitioners provide care.
- Evaluate their practice through peer review and quality assurance.
- Advocate for empowerment of women and families.
- Establish and maintain quality services in birth centers or other practice settings in a fiscally sound and financially responsible manner.
- Assume responsibility for the education of nurse-midwifery students or women’s health care nurse practitioner students.
Requirements for Clinical Practicum

Family Nurse Practitioner Required Clinical Experiences
- 10 new antepartum visits
- 30 returning antepartum visits
- 50 women’s health/GYN visits
- 5 newborn to 2 week exams
- 30 infant/toddler exams
- 30 school age exams
- 10 adolescent exams
- 300 client visits for episodic or wellness care
- 50 client visits for chronic illness care

Nurse-Midwifery Required Clinical Experiences
- 10 preconception care visits
- 30 new antepartum visits
- 140 return antepartum visits
- 40 labor management experiences
- 40 births (including 4 observations, at least 5 continuity clients, at least 5 without epidurals)
- 40 newborn assessments
- 20 breastfeeding support visits
- 40 postpartum visits (2 hours to 14 days)
- 30 postpartum visits (2 to 8 weeks)
- 40 common health problems
- 30 family planning visits
- 25 non-postpartum gynecologic visits
- 25 perimenopausal/postmenopausal visits

Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner Required Clinical Experiences
- 30 new antepartum visits
- 120 return antepartum visits
- 50 postpartum visits (< 8 wks)
- 300 gynecologic care visits
- 100 primary care visits
Developmental Assessment Tools

The Clinical Practicum is evaluated through the FNU’s Daily and Monthly Developmental Assessment Tools (DATs). The DATs are designed to evaluate application of theory to practice, safe psychomotor skills, and appropriate professional conduct. The student self-evaluates and is evaluated by the preceptor(s). Students are expected to demonstrate through their evaluations continual progress toward the provision of safe, independent care. The Daily DATs (DDATs) are specifically designed to encourage the student to reflect on his/her learning.

FNU is highly invested in the formative evaluation process for students in clinical. Clinical evaluation is a very important process requiring timely, written, objective documentation. This means:

- Each clinical session should start with a review of the student’s goals for the day and the preceptor’s expectations for that clinical session. This should be followed by a selection of appropriated clients for the student’s care.
- At the end of each day (and after each birth for CNEP students) the preceptor and student should conference to review the experience, complete the DDAT, and formulate a plan for the next clinical session.
- Should any questions arise about the content of any clinical activity, the student and/or preceptor should refer to specific clinical behaviors within the Monthly Developmental Assessment Tool (MDAT).
- Each month the student and preceptor will complete the MDAT to determine at what stage the student is in each area of assessment. By the end of clinical, the student should have met the criteria in all levels.